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**e-commerce** [Pronunciation Key](#) (ē'kŏm'ərs)  
n.

Commerce that is transacted electronically, as over the Internet.

Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*

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**e-commerce**[electronic commerce](#)Source: *The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing*, © 1993-2001 Denis Howe

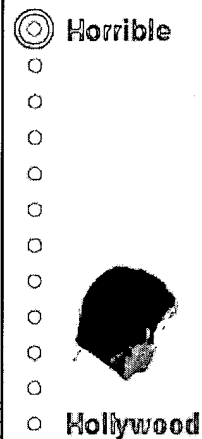
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2 entries found for **electronic commerce**.**electronic commerce**

<application, communications> (EC) The conducting of business communication and transactions over networks and through computers. As most restrictively defined, electronic commerce is the buying and selling of goods and services, and the transfer of funds, through digital communications. However EC also includes all inter-company and intra-company functions (such as marketing, finance, manufacturing, selling, and negotiation) that enable commerce and use electronic mail, EDI, file transfer, fax, video conferencing, workflow, or interaction with a remote computer.

Electronic commerce also includes buying and selling over the World-Wide Web and the Internet, electronic funds transfer, smart cards, digital cash (e.g. Mondex), and all other ways of doing business over digital networks.

[[Electronic Commerce Dictionary](#)].

(1995-10-08)

Source: *The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing*, © 1993-2001 Denis Howe**electronic commerce**electronic commerce in InvestorWordsSource: *InvestorWords*, © 2000 *InvestorGuide.com, Inc.*

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### -commerce

(Electronic-COMMERCE) Doing business online, typically via the Web. It is also called "e-business," "e-tailing" and "I-commerce." Although in most cases e-commerce and e-business are synonymous, e-commerce implies that goods and services can be purchased online, whereas e-business might be used as more of an umbrella term for a total presence on the Web, which would naturally include the e-commerce (shopping) component.

E-commerce may also refer to electronic data interchange (EDI), in which one company's computer queries and transmits purchase orders to another company's computer. See [m-commerce](#), [microcommerce](#) and [clicks and mortar](#).

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### The First E-Commerce?

In 1886, a telegraph operator was able to obtain a shipment of watches that was refused by the local jeweler. Using the telegraph, he sold all the watches to fellow operators and railroad employees. Within a few months, he made enough money to quit his job and start his own store. The young man's name was Richard Sears, and his company later became Sears, Roebuck.

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- ▶ [e-cash](#)
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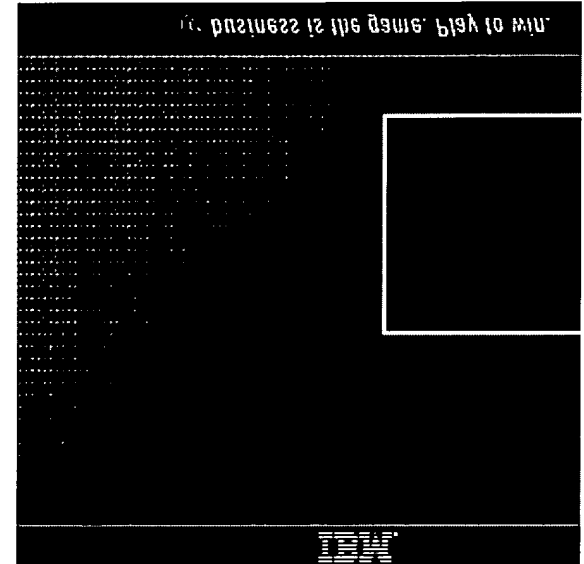
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4 entries found for **login**.

**log in** Pronunciation Key (lôg'ín', lôg'-) also **log on** (-ôŋ', -ôn')  
n.

The process of identifying oneself to a computer, usually by entering one's username and password.

Source: The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition

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**login**

v : enter a computer; "Have you logged in lately?" [syn: log in, log on] [ant: log out]

Source: WordNet ® 1.6, © 1997 Princeton University

**login**

1. An object-oriented deductive language and database system integrating logic programming and inheritance.

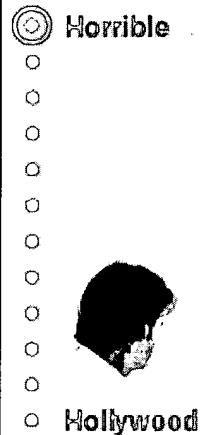
["LOGIN: A Logic Programming Language with Built-In Inheritance", H. Ait-Kaci et al, J Logic Programming 3(3):185-215 (1986)].

Source: The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing, © 1993-2001 Denis Howe

**login**

<jargon> (Or "log in", "log on", "logon") To start a session with a system, usually by giving a user name and password as a means of user authentication. The term is also used to mean the ability to access a service (also called an account), e.g. "Have you been given a login yet?"

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"Log in/on" is occasionally misused to refer to starting a session where no authorisation is involved, or to access where there is no session involved. E.g. "Log on to our Web site!"

"login" is also the Unix program which reads and verifies a user's user name and password and starts an interactive session.

(1997-08-03)

Source: *The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing*, © 1993-2001 Denis Howe

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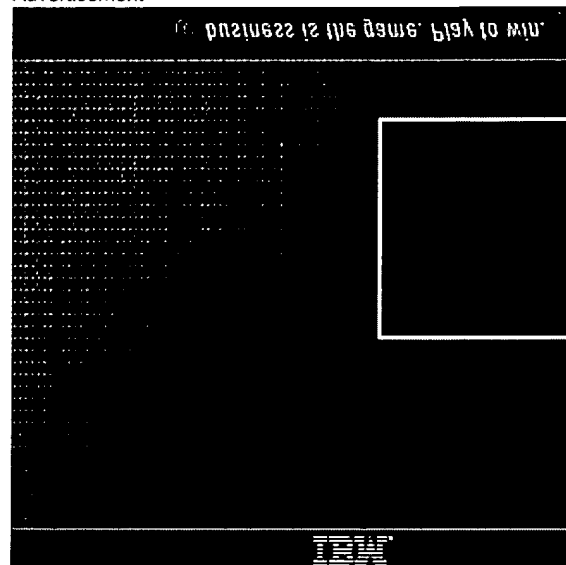
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### logon

The process of gaining access, or signing in, to a computer system. The noun is generally "logon," while the verb is "log on." If access is restricted, the logon requires users to identify themselves by entering an ID number and/or password. Service bureaus often base their charges for the time between logon and logoff.

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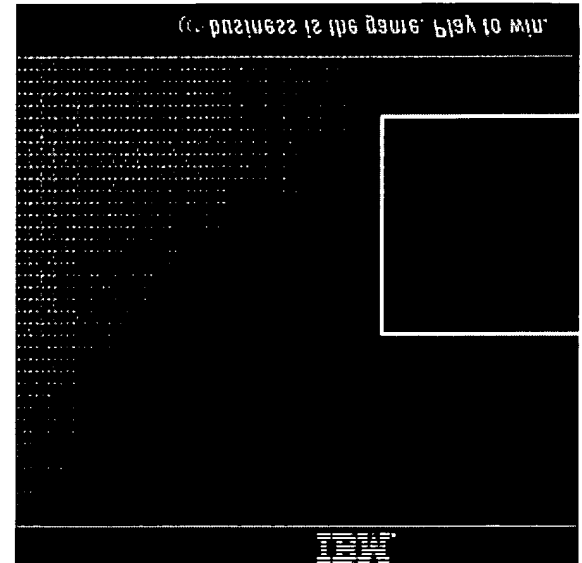
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### internet

(2) A large network made up of a number of smaller networks.

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(1) (Internet) "The Internet is made up of computers in more than 100 countries covering commercial, academic and government endeavors. Originally developed for the U.S. military, the Internet became widely used for academic and commercial research. Users had access to unpublished data and journals on a huge variety of subjects. Today, the Internet has become commercialized into a worldwide information highway, providing information on every subject known to humankind.

The Internet's surge in growth in the latter half of the 1990s was twofold. As the major online services (AOL, CompuServe, etc.) connected to the Internet for e-mail exchange, the Internet began to function as a central gateway. A member of one service could finally send mail to a member of another. The Internet glued the world together for electronic mail, and today, the Internet mail protocol is the world standard.

Secondly, with the advent of graphics-based Web browsers such as Mosaic and Netscape Navigator, and soon after, Microsoft's Internet Explorer, the World Wide Web took off. The Web became easily available to users with PCs and Macs rather than only scientists and hackers at UNIX workstations. Delphi was the first proprietary online service to offer Web access, and all the rest followed. At the same time, new Internet service providers rose out of the woodwork to offer access to individuals and companies. As a result, the Web has grown exponentially providing an information exchange of unprecedented proportion. The Web has also become "the" storehouse for drivers, updates and demos that are downloaded via the browser.

Although daily news and information is now available on countless Web sites, long before the Web, information on a myriad of subjects was exchanged via Usenet (User Network) newsgroups. Still thriving, newsgroup articles can be selected and read directly from your Web browser. See [Usenet](#).

Chat rooms provide another popular Internet service. Internet Relay Chat (IRC) offers multiuser text conferencing on diverse topics. Dozens of IRC servers provide hundreds of channels that anyone can log onto and participate in via the keyboard. See [IRC](#).

### The Original Internet

The Internet started in 1969 as the [ARPAnet](#). Funded by the U.S. government, the ARPAnet became a series of high-speed links between major supercomputer sites and educational and research institutions worldwide, although mostly in the U.S. A major part of its backbone was the National Science Foundation's NFSNet. Along the way, it became known as the "Internet" or simply "the Net." By the 1990s, so many

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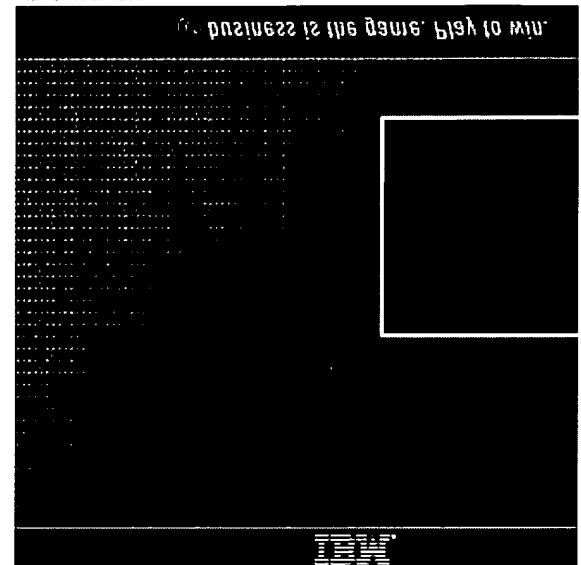
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networks had become part of it and so much traffic was not educational or pure research that it became obvious that the Internet was on its way to becoming a commercial venture.

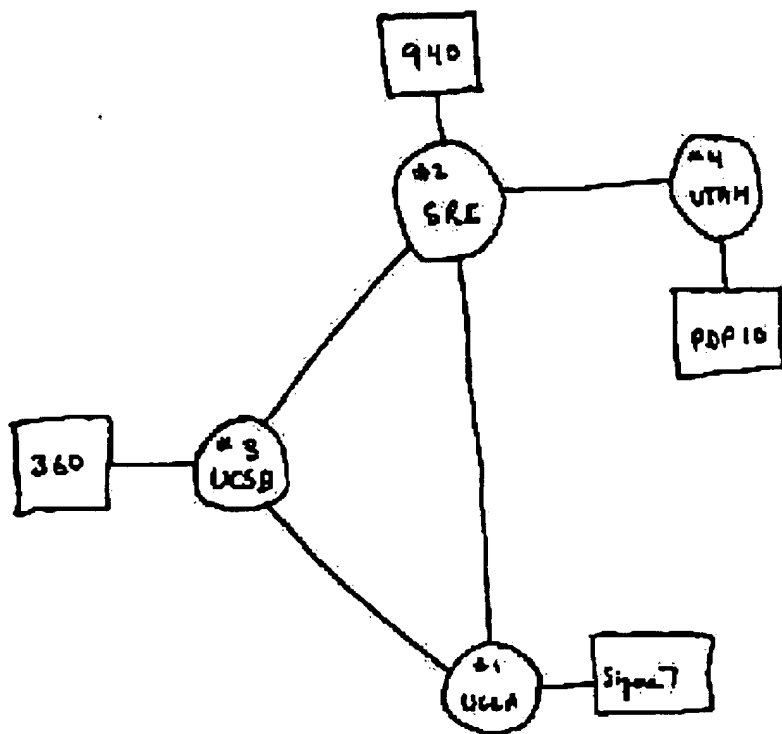
In 1995, the Internet was turned over to large commercial Internet providers (ISPs), such as MCI, Sprint and UUNET, which took responsibility for the backbones and have increasingly enhanced their capacities ever since. Regional ISPs link into these backbones to provide lines for their subscribers, and smaller ISPs hook either directly into the national backbones or into the regional ISPs.

Internet computers use the TCP/IP communications protocol. As of July 2001, there were more than 125 million hosts on the Internet, a host being a mainframe or medium to high-end server that is always online via TCP/IP. The Internet is also connected to non-TCP/IP networks worldwide through gateways that convert TCP/IP into other protocols.

Although most new users interact with the Internet via their Web browsers, for years, command-line UNIX utilities were used. For example, an FTP (File Transfer Protocol) program allows files to be downloaded, and the Archie utility provides listings of these files. Telnet is a terminal emulation program that lets you log onto a computer in the Internet and run a program. Gopher provides hierarchical menus describing Internet files (not just file names), and Veronica lets you make more sophisticated searches on Gopher sites. See [FTP](#), [Archie](#), [Telnet](#), [Gopher](#) and [Veronica](#).

Ironically, some of the original academic and scientific users of the Internet are developing their own network once again. The Internet is so jammed these days that they no longer enjoy the quick access they were used to (see [Internet2](#)). See [Web vs. Internet](#), [World Wide Web](#), [how to search the Web](#), [intranet](#), [NAP](#), [hot topics and trends](#), [IAB](#), [information superhighway](#) and [online services](#).

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**Modest Beginnings** These four nodes were drawn in 1969 showing the University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles, SRI International and the University of Utah. This modest network diagram was the beginning of the ARPAnet and eventually the Internet. (Image courtesy of The Computer Museum History Center, [www.historycenter.org](http://www.historycenter.org))

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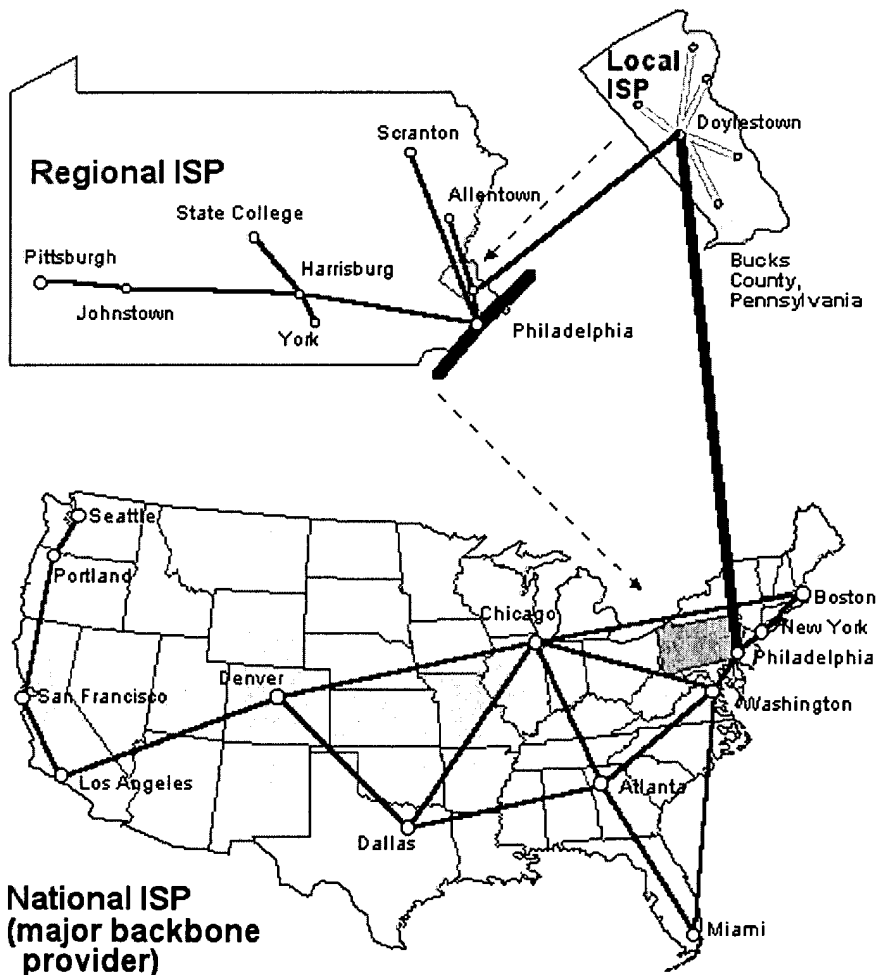
## The Internet Explosion

There has been more activity, excitement and hype over the Internet than any other computer or communications topic that was ever conceived. Using the World Wide Web, thousands of companies, from conglomerates to mom and pop shops, are trying to figure out how to make the Internet a worldwide shopping mall. Will it become "the" model for commerce in the 21st century? Will traffic bog down like the Los Angeles freeway? Or, will it just become one more option for doing business in a world rich with choices? Stay tuned!

## Getting Started?

For a list of good books on the Internet, see [Internet references](#).

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**How the Internet Is Connected** Small Internet service providers (ISPs) hook into regional ISPs, which themselves link into major backbones that traverse the U.S. connecting major metropolitan areas. This diagram shows what a typical national backbone might look like as well as a county and state provider. While local ISPs may offer services only within their county, regional providers often span state lines.

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6 entries found for **internet**.

**~~In~~ter~~net~~** [Pronunciation Key](#) (ɪnˈtər-nĕt)  
n.

An interconnected system of networks that connects computers around the world via the TCP/IP protocol.

Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*

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**internet**

n : worldwide network of computer computer networks that use the TCP/IP network protocols to facilitate data transmission and exchange [syn: [cyberspace](#)]

Source: *WordNet* ® 1.6, © 1997 Princeton University

**internet**

<networking> (Note: capital "I"). The Internet is the largest internet (with a small "i") in the world. It is a three level hierarchy composed of backbone networks (e.g. ARPAnet, NSFNet, MILNET), mid-level networks, and stub networks. These include commercial (.com or .co), university (.ac or .edu) and other research networks (.org, .net) and military (.mil) networks and span many different physical networks around the world with various protocols, chiefly the Internet Protocol.

Until the advent of the World-Wide Web in 1990, the Internet was almost entirely unknown outside universities and corporate research departments and was accessed mostly via command line interfaces such as telnet and FTP. Since then it has grown to become an almost-ubiquitous aspect of modern information systems, becoming highly commercial and a widely accepted medium for all sort of customer relations such as advertising, brand building, and online sales and services. Its original spirit of cooperation and freedom have, to a great extent, survived this

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explosive transformation with the result that the vast majority of information available on the Internet is free of charge.

While the web (primarily in the form of HTML and HTTP) is the best known aspect of the Internet, there are many other protocols in use, supporting applications such as electronic mail, Usenet, chat, remote login, and file transfer.

There were 20,242 unique commercial domains registered with InterNIC in September 1994, 10% more than in August 1994. In 1996 there were over 100 Internet access providers in the US and a few in the UK (e.g. the BBC Networking Club, Demon, PIPEX).

There are several bodies associated with the running of the Internet, including the Internet Architecture Board, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, the Internet Engineering and Planning Group, Internet Engineering Steering Group, and the Internet Society.

See also NYsernet, EUNet.

The Internet Index (<http://www.openmarket.com/intindex>) - statistics about the Internet.

(2000-02-21)

Source: *The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing*, © 1993-2001 Denis Howe

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## internet

<networking> (Note: not capitalised) Any set of networks interconnected with routers. The Internet is the biggest example of an internet.

(1996-09-17)

Source: *The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing*, © 1993-2001 Denis Howe

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## internet

n. The mother of all networks. First incarnated beginning in 1969 as the ARPANET, a U.S. Department of Defense research testbed. Though it has been widely believed that the goal was to develop a network architecture for military command-and-control that could survive disruptions up to and including nuclear war, this is a myth; in fact, ARPANET was conceived from the start as a way to get most economical use out of then-scarce large-computer resources.

As originally imagined, ARPANET's major use would have been to support what is now called remote login and more sophisticated forms of distributed computing, but the infant technology of electronic mail quickly grew to dominate actual usage. Universities, research labs and defense contractors early discovered the Internet's potential as a medium of communication between humans and linked up in steadily increasing numbers, connecting together a quirky mix of academics, techies, hippies, SF fans, hackers, and anarchists. The roots of this lexicon lie in those early years.

Over the next quarter-century the Internet evolved in many ways. The typical machine/OS combination moved from DEC PDP-10s and PDP-20s, running TOPS-10 and TOPS-20, to PDP-11s and VAXes and Suns running Unix, and in the 1990s to Unix on Intel microcomputers. The

Internet's protocols grew more capable, most notably in the move from NCP/IP to TCP/IP in 1982 and the implementation of Domain Name Service in 1983. It was around this time that people began referring to the collection of interconnected networks with ARPANET at its core as "the Internet".

The ARPANET had a fairly strict set of participation guidelines - connected institutions had to be involved with a DOD-related research project. By the mid-80s, many of the organizations clamoring to join didn't fit this profile. In 1986, the National Science Foundation built NSFnet to open up access to its five regional supercomputing centers; NSFnet became the backbone of the Internet, replacing the original ARPANET pipes (which were formally shut down in 1990). Between 1990 and late 1994 the pieces of NSFnet were sold to major telecommunications companies until the Internet backbone had gone completely commercial.

That year, 1994, was also the year the mainstream culture discovered the Internet. Once again, the killer app was not the anticipated one - rather, what caught the public imagination was the hypertext and multimedia features of the World Wide Web. Subsequently the Internet has seen off its only serious challenger (the OSI protocol stack favored by European telecom monopolies) and is in the process of absorbing into itself many of the proprietary networks built during the second wave of wide-area networking after 1980. It is now (1996) a commonplace even in mainstream media to predict that a globally-extended Internet will become the key unifying communications technology of the next century. See also the network and Internet address.

Source: *Jargon File 4.2.0*

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INTERNET: in Acronym Finder

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